

# MEMORANDUM

Recreation and Community Services Department



**To:** Milpitas Mayor and City Councilmembers

**Through:** Julie Edmonds-Mares, City Manager

**From:** Renee Lorentzen, Director of Recreation and Community Services

**Subject:** Milpitas Teen Center

**Date:** November 6, 2018

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House/Grand Opening event from 4:30PM – 6:30PM at the Teen Center (40 N. Milpitas Blvd.). Attending teens will be able to go throughout the center and participate in mini activities, sign up for teen event planning groups and service clubs hours, visit center services tables, and more.

## Mission

The mission of the Teen Center and the resurgence of teen programming in Milpitas is to provide a safe, enriching, and supportive environment where teenagers can participate in constructive, educational and recreational activities. The Milpitas Teen Center strives to develop and empower diverse leaders who will enrich the Milpitas community.

## Teen Center Research

In preparation for the Teen Center opening, staff conducted outreach via social media, emailed surveys to Recreation customers, and MUSD student email lists, to teens, parents, and other municipal-run and non-profit teen centers to 1) understand and gather input on what teens would want to see in their center, 2) garner feedback from the parents as to what types of programs they want their child(ren) to participate in, and 3) note successful trends in teen programming at other sites and service agencies.

Some of the biggest take-aways from this outreach were:

- Today's teens are seeking a more structured, scheduled experience (scheduled programs, special interest classes and activities)
- Teen centers who primarily offered "Drop-In" programs were unsuccessful
- Both parents and teens were interested in life-skills classes and workshops
- Teens are seeking Mental Health services and resources
- Volunteer Service hours and trips were of popular interest

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### Programming

General Teen Center programs and services will be offered Monday – Friday from 3:30 – 6:30 PM. The Teen Center is subsidized by the General Fund, allowing membership to be free of charge. Additionally, there is no cost for the majority of workshops, classes and programs offered. For specific classes and programs with a fee, there is a scholarship program available.

As the Teen Center is located at the Barbara Lee Senior Center, there will be at least an hour of overlap where both seniors and teens are participating in onsite programs at the same time. Staff will be utilizing this time to expand intergenerational programming. The center already hosts a “Tech Time/Talk” where teens show seniors how to use their electronic devices. Additional opportunities such as fitness room training, Stress Workshops, and service club hours are being considered as intergenerational programming. The Center’s programs and efforts are not an extension of Milpitas High School or Calaveras Hills High. The creation of the Teen Center supports our community’s teens in creating a space that offers opportunities that they both need and want.

### Future Steps

Recreation and Community Services staff is committed to continuing the development of the Teen Center on an on-going basis. Receiving feedback on important topics and programs for teens through additional and continued outreach, particularly with at-risk youth and partnerships with organizations supporting underserved families, will help to create and maintain positive relationships between the center staff and teens in Milpitas.